

### **Amendments to the Specification**

**Page 2, please replace the paragraph spanning lines 8-23 with the following rewritten paragraph:**

Publication 2 describes a method for producing alunite having a specific surface area of 200 to 240 m<sup>2</sup>/g by adding potassium sulfate (K<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) and potassium hydroxide (KOH) to an aluminum sulfate (Al<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>) aqueous solution to adjust the K/Al ratio to 5 and the pH to 3.7 and boiling and refluxing the solution for three hours. It has been reported that alunite produced by this method is a flake-shaped porous aggregate which has slits having a width of 15 to 30Å and has water adsorbability comparable to that of silica gel and high adsorbability to SO<sub>2</sub> and NO and adsorbs acidic dyes well.

Publication 1: Kōno-Kawano et al., Mineralogy Journal, Vol. 20, Num. 1 and 2, pp. 13 to 23, January and April, 1991

Publication 2: Inoue et al., Journal of Chemical Society of Japan, 1985(2), pp. 156 to 162